



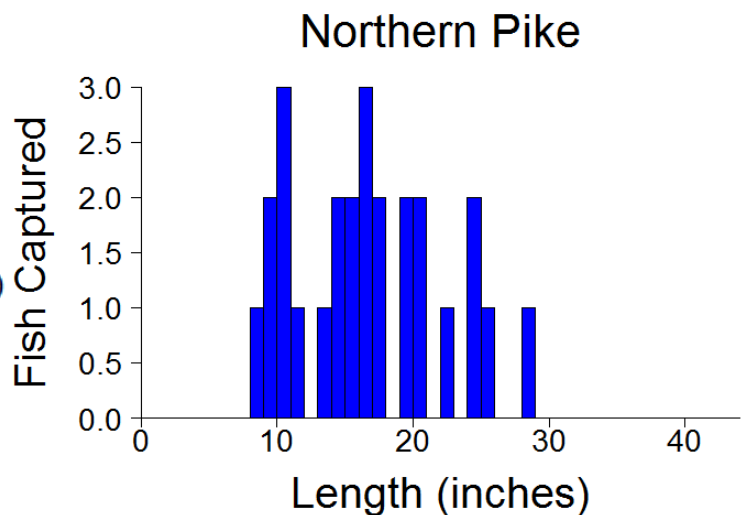
Summary of Fishery Survey White River Flowage, Ashland County, 2015

The White River Flowage is a hard water drainage impoundment with predominantly clay, muck, and boulder substrates. It has a surface area of 47 acres, 2.7 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 26 feet. The Mercer DNR Fisheries Management Team conducted an early-spring fyke netting survey to assess the northern pike population on the White River Flowage. Quality, preferred, and memorable sizes referenced in this summary are based on standard proportions of world record lengths developed for each species by the American Fisheries Society, and reflect the percentage of the adult population sampled larger than the specified size.



Northern Pike Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 21 in.)	28
Preferred (> 28 in.)	6
Memorable (> 34 in.)	0

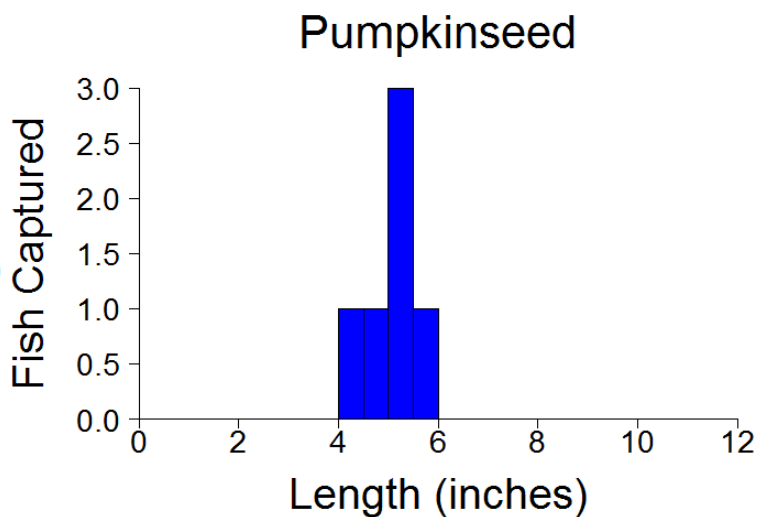


We sampled a total of 26 individual northern pike during our early-spring fyke netting survey at a rate of 1.73/net-night. Pike ranged in length from 8.6"- 28.0" and averaged 16.7". These results suggest that northern pike are present in low densities and most individuals are relatively small in size. The relative number of young fish suggests that natural reproduction is occurring and juvenile fish may be recruiting to the adult fishery in the coming years.



Pumpkinseed Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 6 in.)	0
Preferred (> 8 in.)	0
Memorable (> 10 in.)	0

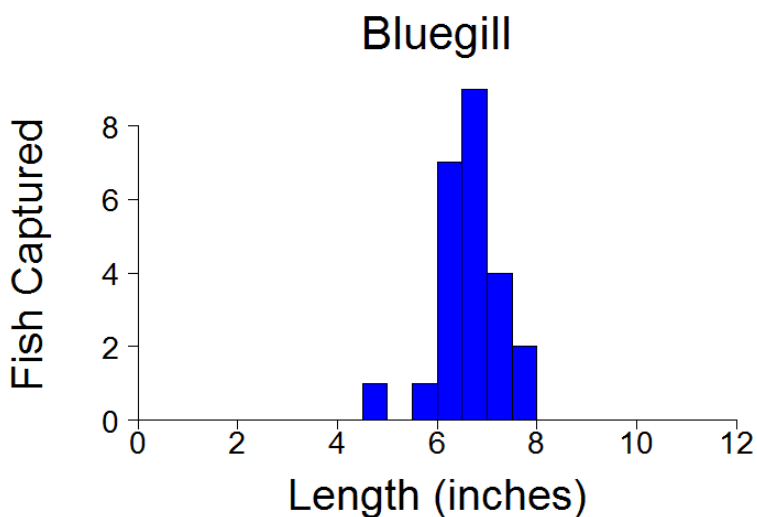


Although pumpkinseeds were not a targeted species of these survey efforts, they were surveyed at a rate of 0.4/net-night. Pumpkinseeds ranged in length from 4.4"-5.5" and averaged 5.2".



Bluegill Size Groups (PSD/RSD)

Size Class	% of Sample
Quality (> 6 in.)	92
Preferred (> 8 in.)	0
Memorable (> 10 in.)	0



Although bluegills were not a targeted species in these survey efforts, they were surveyed at a rate of 1.6/net-night during our early spring fyke netting survey. Bluegills ranged in length from 4.9"- 7.6" and averaged 6.6".

Additional Notes:

Historically, the White River Flowage has supported a reputable northern pike fishery. During the summer of 2013, extended periods of low water levels (not exceeding the main river channel) spurred concerns regarding impacts on the northern pike fishery. Therefore, this survey was conducted to assess the status of the northern pike population. It should be noted that catches of other, non-targeted species are not necessarily representative of relative abundance or the size distribution of each species, but does provides us with a general idea of fish community composition.

Survey results suggest that northern pike are currently present in low abundance and at relatively small sizes. The northern pike catch rate was relatively low (1.7/net-night) compared to previous surveys (5.1/net-night in 1983), and size range was considerably smaller in this survey (8.6" – 28.0") than previously documented (13.5" – 39.9" in 1983). Aging structures will provide valuable data to help verify the age structure of the population.

Black crappie, brown trout, brook trout, bullheads, redhorse, and white suckers were also captured during our survey. For questions or additional results from 2015 survey work contact:

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